

RESOLUTION

**By Glidden, Bender, Cano, Frey, Goodman, Gordon, A. Johnson,
B. Johnson, Palmisano, Quincy, Reich, Warsame, and Yang**

Reaffirming the City of Minneapolis's Support for the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals.

Whereas, in June 2012, President Barack Obama established Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), for immigrants who came to the United States as children (Dreamers), and created the opportunity to apply for temporary residence and eligibility for a work permit in the United States; and

Whereas, President Obama said when creating the DACA program: "These are young people who study in our schools, they play in our neighborhoods, they're friends with our kids, they pledge allegiance to our flag. They are Americans in their heart, in their minds, in every single way but one on paper"; and

Whereas, 787,580 individuals have qualified for DACA status, of which 6,300 are Minnesota residents; and

Whereas, DACA applicants are youth from Central America, Africa, the Caribbean and Asia; and

Whereas, in addition to the unconscionable ethical impacts of rescinding DACA, a 2016 report produced by the University of Minnesota's Humphrey School of Public Affairs estimates that Minnesota's DACA participants pay \$6,965,000 a year in taxes, that the DACA program has increased the number of "Dreamers" to attend college, and made it possible for 70% of DACA participants to find a new job; and

Whereas, ending the DACA program will break the trust of hundreds of thousands of young people who have provided confidential information to the federal government, making youth vulnerable to aggressive government raids, deprivation of liberty in detention centers, and life-altering deportations for children to countries where they are unfamiliar with the culture, language, and are separated from family and friends and their entire support networks; and

Whereas, the City of Minneapolis was one the first cities in the United States to publicly support the implementation of DACA, promoting the program and encouraging its residents to apply for deferred action; and

Whereas, the City of Minneapolis firmly supports comprehensive immigration reform; and

Whereas, DACA is but one small piece of immigration reform, but recognizes that maintaining DACA is critical and while our country continues to wait and wait for Congress to act to fix a broken immigration system; and

Whereas, the City of Minneapolis is a Welcoming City and values its ethnic, racial, linguistic, and socio-economic diversity which contributes to our strength and prosperity and we stand committed to ensuring that all our residents can live and pursue their livelihoods in peace and prosperity; and

Whereas, the City is joined by federal and state elected officials, businesses, academic, religious, and community institutions in Minneapolis and Minnesota supporting the continuation of DACA and strongly supports the Attorney General of the State of Minnesota's effort to join legal action to block the White House from terminating the DACA program; and

Whereas, the City of Minneapolis is not responsible for federal immigration activity within its jurisdiction and resists unconstitutional attempts to compel local jurisdictions to act as immigration agents, which diverts public resources, damages community trust, and endangers public safety by making residents fearful of calling police for critical safety services. The City of Minneapolis reaffirms its support for legal action and all means necessary to oppose such unconstitutional directives by the federal government; and

Whereas, the City of Minneapolis opposes building a wall between the United States and Mexico, as proposed by the White House, and opposes the RAISE (Reforming American Immigration for Strong Employment) Act, a bill introduced in 2017 to reduce levels of legal immigration to the United States by 50%, by halving the number of green cards issued, and recognizes the blatant racism and xenophobia inherent in it and other anti-immigration policies;

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved by The City Council of The City of Minneapolis:

That the City of Minneapolis opposes all efforts to rescind the DACA program and urges Congress to act now to preserve DACA and pass comprehensive immigration reform; and

That the City of Minneapolis is strongly committed to continuing the work of enacting policies and programs to welcome members of all communities including creating a legal defense fund to support immigrants and refugees in our city.

Be It Further Resolved that the City Clerk shall transmit a copy of this resolution to the Minneapolis Congressional delegation.